



Mayor's Office, City of Houston

Office of International Affairs & Development

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Message from the Mayor

This month, I am very pleased to share with you the exciting news and promising results of Houston's continuing international engagements. From July 14 to 22, I had the honor of leading the City of Houston 2006 Economic Development Mission—a mission with 65 participating delegates—to the cities of Shanghai, Dalian and Beijing in China. Together we represented the best of our city abroad to China, and, I am pleased to announce, gained much for Houston in the form of future business cooperation and shared cultural endeavors.

One of the greatest benefits of this mission came from reaffirming the belief that as Houston continues to reach out to its international partners, we open the door to advanced levels of cooperation and unlimited opportunities.



Bill White

Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Director

Each month, we receive numerous messages of encouragement and support from the community:

"Education is when you read the fine print. Experience is what you get if you don't." (Pete Seeger)



Helen T. Chang

Karen Otazo
Corporate Adviser

We will continue to serve the community with great pride.
Thank you.

Helen T. Chang, Director

July 2006 Highlights

Houston's Petrochemical Expertise Draws Partners from Afar

In July, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Development hosted two official delegations from the cities of Chengdu and Nanjing. Mayor Ge Honglin and his colleagues of the Chengdu Municipal Government traveled to Houston as part of a fact-finding delegation on Houston's extensive petrochemical network. Their visit was capped with a partnership agreement signing ceremony between Mayor Ge and Mayor White, pledging cooperation in not only the petrochemical industry but also in medical science, healthcare and education.



Mayor Ge Honglin of Chengdu (left) and Mayor Bill White

Did You Know?

Chengdu is the seat of government for Sichuan Province in south-central China. The region is the native habitat of the giant panda. Nanjing is one of the four great historical capitals of China, with the city being the seat of the imperial government during numerous periods of the country's history since the second century A.D.

The visit by Nanjing delegation, led by Vice Mayor Jin Daoqing, was also focused upon expanding cooperation between the petrochemical sectors of both cities. To this end, the City of Houston and the Nanjing Municipal Government hosted the *Nanjing-Houston Petrochemical Industry Workshop* at the J.W. Marriott on July 12. Co-sponsored by the U.S.- China Chamber of Commerce, the workshop featured investment opportunities in the Nanjing Chemical Industry Park. With over 100 companies (estimated investment totaling over \$5 billion), the Park is a major economic engine driving the continued rapid economic development along China's eastern coastline. – **By David Chang**

Pakistani Minister of Ports Explores Cooperation with Port of Houston

As one of the major ports of the United States (ranking first in the foreign tonnage, second in total tonnage) and the 10th largest port of the world, the Port of Houston receives international attention from all corners of the globe. On July 6, Pakistani Minister Babar Khan Ghauri of Ports visited the Port of Houston to gain insight on the Port of Houston's current geography, facilities, and its services.

Did You Know?

Karachi has long been known as Pakistan's main port on the Arabian Sea, but within the last five years, the city of Gwadar (near the Iranian border) has seen extensive and rapid development in its deepwater port facilities.

Port of Houston Chairman Jim Edmonds and Development Director John Horan presented an in-depth briefing. Joining the Port of Houston in welcoming Minister Ghauri was Council Member M. J. Khan as well as Oakistiani Consul General G. R. Baluch in Houston. – **By David Chang**



(From left to right) Mr. Jim Edmonds, Minister Babar K. Ghauri, Consul General G.R. Baluch, City Council Member M. J. Khan and Mr. John Horan

Italian Cultural and Community Center Presents Daughters of Italian Heritage

On July 12, the Italian Cultural and Community Center held their *Daughters of Italian Heritage* club meeting. The Center's purpose is to promote Italian culture and heritage, while incorporating fellowship and performing works of charity.

These monthly meetings allow second generation Italian-American women to participate in a *Heritage Night*, a chance to

Did You Know?

There has been a strong custom in Italy that determines how children are named: The first female is named after her paternal grandmother. The second female is named after her maternal grandmother.

Source: <http://italiangenealogy.tardio.com>

share past experiences that evoke Italian

culture. Women from all different walks of life gathered for a night of Italian cuisine and culture. Roundtable discussions of individual experiences were the highlight of this month's meeting, evoking camaraderie between the members. Chair of Daughters of Italian Heritage, Jo Ann Pinkerton, said that "having the ability to gather together at events like these help us to learn about ourselves and of our Italian traditions."

– By Angeline Vuong



(From left to right) Marylyn Colonna, Valerie Kavalevitz, May Kay Messina

Mayor White Leads Economic Development Mission to China

On July 14, Mayor Bill White, along with 64 delegates, embarked on an eight-day landmark Economic Development Mission to China, which included visits to the cities of Shanghai, Dalian and Beijing. The Mayor had high hopes for his first overseas trade mission to a country whose economy is the fastest growing in the world and whose population stands at 1.3 billion. The official City of Houston delegation was one of the City's largest outbound official delegations. The delegation, which reflected a wide spectrum of Houston's interests, comprised of city business leaders in the fields of energy, logistics and hospitality, key representatives from the city's education and culture areas, as well as from the Port of Houston, Houston Airport System, Greater Houston Partnership, and the Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council. The leadership of State Senator Rodney Ellis and City Council Member Ada Edwards, who also participated in the Mission, benefited the entire group.

For Mayor White, a primary objective of this Mission was to demonstrate to the host cities that Houston would be the ideal city to do business with. At present, over 500 Houston companies have reported trade relations with China, while more than 40 area companies have already established subsidiaries in the country; the potential for expanding existing relationships and creating new ones is immense, almost in any field. It was immediately apparent that each of the three cities visited embodied China's welcoming ethos and business potential. In Shanghai, armed with cowboy hats, signed Yao Ming basketballs and an abundance of goodwill, the delegation visited the Shanghai Petrochemical Industrial Park, the Yangshan deep-sea port, and the city's high-speed Maglev Train.

The second city visited, Dalian – also known as China’s ‘Northern Hong Kong’ – held a particular resonance for the delegation as a city that offers spectacular hospitality matched with business acumen and, similarly to Houston, has a broad petrochemical base. In Beijing – China’s political, cultural and education heart – the delegation met with the ministries of Commerce, National Development and Reform Commission, and Culture, as well as with the heads of CNOOC, CNPC and SINOPEC, three of China’s major oil companies. In these meetings, the initial foundation for future China-Houston endeavors has been established.



An official exchange of gifts between Mayor White and Vice Mayor Xing of Dalian at a luncheon hosted by Dalian Chamber of Commerce.



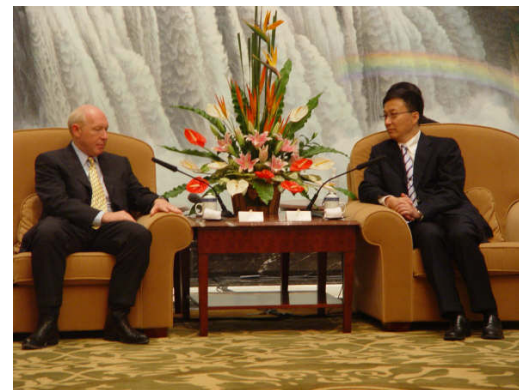
Joel Bartsch signs museum cooperation agreement with Jinshan District at the Shanghai-Houston Business Forum.

In addition to bringing the best of Houston to China, the Houston delegation brings back a little of China. Delegates of each represented sector emphasize their first-hand learning experience and point out to initial accomplishments. Business Sector delegates cite first-hand acquired knowledge of key investment zones in China as well as exclusive privileges granted to Houston businesses in petrochemical development and merchandising. Cultural sector delegates point to platforms for exchanges with China’s vast network of museums and artistic centers, while education sector delegates bring home agreements for student exchanges, and closer cooperation with Chinese academic institutions.

The Mission produced nine signed international agreements with our Chinese counterparts, reciprocal pledges for future interactions, an abundance of exchanges of ideas and a greater sense of mutual understanding.

Economic Development Mission 2006, led by Mayor White, demonstrated that practicing a direct and personal diplomacy could create trust, encourage cooperation, open doors and create opportunities that extend far into the future.

Mayor Leads Economic Mission to China – Testimonials



Mayor White discusses possible future cooperation with Mayor Han of Shanghai.

“I very much enjoyed this opportunity and mission. Chad and I will follow through with seeking out opportunity to bring air cargo freighter service and flight rotation into Houston. Thanks to you and Mayor White for all your help and coordination and of course the invitation.”

Vittorio Favati, President-International
EGL Eagle Global Logistics

"Thanks, what a terrific job."

Nene Foxhall, Vice President, International and State Affairs
Continental Airlines

"Thank you. This mission was very well organized and very fruitful, and I wanted to particularly thank you. I am preparing a letter to Mayor White to thank him. If you come back to china for Shanghai Chemical Industrial Park, do not hesitate to call me."

Remi Charachon, Managing Director
Air Liquide China Co., Ltd.

"Thank you and your staff for a great trip. For me it was a perfect introduction to China and helps give our firm a roadmap for further activities. I enjoyed spending time and getting to know everyone in the delegation."

David Orr, Director
Simmons & Company International

"Thank you for your hard work in China."

Daisy E. Liu, Manager
International Government Affairs, Asia Pacific
ConocoPhillips

"Thank you and the Mayor's staff for all your hard work in organizing the Trade Mission and taking care of all our diverse interest in China."

Charles C. Foster, Chairman
Asia Society-Texas Center, and
President
Tindall & Foster, P.C.

"I would like to thank you, the Mayor and your staff for organizing a great Economic Development Mission to China. It was not an easy job to organize such a trip. Thanks for all your hard work and efforts. Thank you for playing such an important role in promoting the relationship between Houston and China."

Y. Ping Sun, First Lady
Rice University, and
Of Counsel
Yetter & Warden Law Firm

International Agreements Signed During 2006 Economic Development Mission

Shanghai:

- Protocol of Intent between the Jinshan District Science and Technology Commission and the Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Oil and Energy Partnership
- International Merchandising Cooperation
- University Cooperation in Education, Research, Faculty Development and Industry Development

Dalian:

- Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Investment Promotion
- Dalian Oil Reserve and Distribution Park Cooperation and Development
- Garment and Textile Cooperation

Beijing:

- Information and Technology Exchange
- Industrial Development Cooperation

“Walter and I thank you and your staff for an outstanding job in organizing the Trade Mission to China. We can only imagine the work this involved. Everyone should be congratulated on the success of your efforts. You did a superb job. Mayor White was articulate and outstanding in his conversations. He represented Houston in a first class manner. We are very fortunate to have a man of his caliber leading our city. The trip will be a lifelong memory.”

Cheryl May, Chair
Mayor’s International Affairs and
Development Council/ Europe, and
Controller
Maurice Pincoffs Co. Inc.

Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Invests in Business Future

On July 19, the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce held its monthly *Networking Breakfast and Mini-Trade Fair* at the Westin Galleria. The event gave members an excellent opportunity to showcase their products and services.

Did You Know?

The Royal Dutch Shell emblem is one of the most familiar commercial symbols in the world. It is known as the “Pecten” after the giant sea shell scallop on which its design is based.

Source: www.shell.com

This month’s theme “Investing in Your Business’ Future” correlated with the sponsorship of corporate member Shell Oil Company. Speakers and participants brought insight about issues and opportunities for business ventures and certification with Shell Oil. Topics of engineering services, offshore drilling, plant and building maintenance were among those that provided more information for employee networking and investment. – **By Angeline Vuong**



Business entrepreneurs gather together at the Networking Trade Fair to share business highlights for success.

Upcoming Major Event Spotlights

Our very own Houston Dynamo will compete in a doubleheader soccer match against LA Galaxy, while FC Barcelona will contend against Club America at Reliant Stadium on August 7. A high-level reception will be held beforehand with notable guests. For more information, contact oluck@houstondynamo.com.

Houston Dynamo

60th Anniversary of the Reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand

On August 10, celebrants will honor 60 years of landmark rule by a fixture of Southeast Asia, His Majesty King Bhumibol of Thailand, at the Four Seasons Hotel. This festive occasion is hosted by the Consulate General of Thailand in Houston and the honorary Consul General, Charles Foster, and will recognize a reign that has touched the lives of many, both within Thailand and outside. The past six decades are witness to the significant developments taking place in Thailand, bringing both prosperity and worldwide goodwill to one of our regional allies and trading partners. For more information, contact 713-229-0636.

Join for an auspicious occasion celebrating the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17 at the Westin Galleria Hotel. The noteworthy guest includes Consul General Benny Permadi Suryawinata. For more information, please contact 713-785-1691.

On the Auspicious Occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia

Rekindle the Flame – Italian Gala and Auction

The Italian Cultural and Community Center extends a warm invitation to celebrate their *4th Annual Rekindle the Flame Gala and Auction*, which will be held on August 26 at the Houston Club. Cocktails, dinner, music and dance comprise this special event in honor of Lynne Liberato, past president of the State Bar of Texas. Proceeds from this event will help support scholarships, encouraging young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds to continue their education and studies of choice. For more information, contact 713-524-4222.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in conjunction with His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami Ismaili Council for the Southwestern United States and Asia Society of Texas, has arranged for special film screenings on August 27 of *Children of Heaven*, the first Iranian film to be Oscar nominated for “Best Foreign Film.” It is a chance that offers moviegoers a unique venue to experience significant new independent productions. For more information, call 713-639-7300.

**“Children of Heaven”
Special Film Screening by
the MFAH**

International Houston: Opportunities and Resources

This issue, “International Houston: Opportunities and Resources” will continue to provide information on a wide variety of global opportunities as well as international community resources.

International Sourcing Fair in Shanghai, China

Deadline: September 8, 2006

Would you like to PROMOTE your products to the vast market in China? The Shanghai International Marketing Center is hosting the *2006 China International Sourcing Fair* on September 25-28 at the Shanghai World Trade Center.

Organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, this fair has been named in China as the chief international sourcing conference for the past four years and has become one of the most influential reverse sourcing fairs in China. More than 200 multinational corporations have set up their purchasing offices in Shanghai, and the procurement volume at this fair is expected to exceed \$60 billion. This fair is the place to meet Chinese suppliers and a convenient way to make your entrance into China’s growing supplies’ market.

Six display areas are planned including industrial parts sourcing, international retailers, country and region sourcing, supplier products display, UN sourcing and supplier chain service providers. The main sourcing product categories are consumer goods and industrial parts. Seminars will be held covering topics such as certification training, measures for dealing with anti-dumping and global sourcing trends.

The theme of the summit at the fair will be “Supply Chain Management and China Brands,” and worldwide business and government leaders will speak on relevant topics such as the shifting trends of the global manufacturing industry and the 2007 international sourcing prediction. The award ceremony on the “top ten global buyers in China” and the “top 50 Chinese suppliers” will also be held.

The City of Houston established a partnership agreement with the Shanghai International Merchandizing Center during Mayor White’s mid-July economic development mission trip. This fair is a ground-breaking event aimed at promoting procurement relations between China and the U.S. Join the more than 300 international buyers and 20,000 qualified suppliers for this sourcing fair. For more information, contact MOIAD at 713-247-3595.

www.houstontx.gov/moiad

Mayor's International Affairs & Development Council (MIADC)

MIADC/ Canada

The nine members of the MIADC/ Canada have the privilege of serving the only country-specific region within the MIADC, presenting both exciting opportunities and a few challenges in terms of fulfilling their mission. One of the first actions taken by the Canada region was to reach out to both the Canadian Consulate in Houston and various Canadian ex-pat communities to identify common traits and concerns as well as potential synergies. According to MIADC/ Canada Chair Pauline M. Vaillancourt Rosenau, the MIADC/ Canada has established three services that they can provide to the City of Houston, saying “We will act as a ‘clearinghouse’ for information on all recent, ongoing and future events of significance to Canada and Houston, recommend potential trade missions from an independent perspective, and explore economic and cultural projects for potential development.”



*Pauline M.
Vaillancourt
Rosenau*

Pauline M. Vaillancourt Rosenau, professor at the University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health, is elected chair of Mayor's International Affairs and Development Council/ Canada. Rosenau holds a Ph.D. in political science. Having lived and taught in both countries, she serves as a liaison between Canada and Houston's academic institutions, imparting her desire and guidance to help make Houston a global center of learning. In addition, Rosenau contributes to Houston's international scene through her involvement in the World Affairs Council – Houston, United Nations Association – Houston Chapter and Phi Beta Kappa – Houston.



*Nadine
Aboud
Eidman*

Nadine Aboud Eidman, senior director of international strategy for JPMorgan Chase, is elected chair-elect of the MIADC/ Canada. Eidman has over 18 years of finance and banking experience and has worked within both corporate and government sectors to foster greater international exchanges. The global dynamic of her perspective has proven a valuable asset to her corporate clients as she helped to regularly increase sales, reduce expenses, and boost productivity. Today, she shares this perspective with Houston, having served on the United Nations – Houston Chapter and the Houston World Affairs Council, with the aim of bolstering Houston-Canada economic and cultural partnerships.



*Charlene A.
Ripley*

Charlene A. Ripley, vice president, general counsel, corporate secretary and chief compliance officer for Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, is elected secretary of MIADC/ Canada. A former attorney in Canada, Ripley currently represents Anadarko Petroleum Corp., a company with operations, services and clients all over the globe. Ripley has long been an advocate of international development and she maintains her dedication to Houstonian and Canadian's interests through her membership in numerous organizations such as the Texas State Bar, Executive Women's Partnership of the Greater Houston Partnership, Canadian Bar Association, and the Texas General Counsel Forum.

MIADC – Canada Other Council Members

Mr. Luis Bacigalupo
Mr. Galen Cobb
Dr. Michelle Michot Foss

Ms. Diane Lewter
Dr. Martin Melosi
Ms. Linda Stephens

Sister City Spotlight – Stavanger

This month the International Newsletter will continue to showcase each one of Houston's 16 sister cities around the globe with a closer look at each distinctive locale. This month we feature Stavanger, the fourth largest city in Norway.

Stavanger became Houston's sister city in 1980. Located on the southwest coast of Norway, it is the fourth-largest city with a population of 115,000 and also one of Norway's oldest cities. South of the city lay a number of large, sandy beaches, a contrast to the fjords and mountains which dominate the Norwegian coastline.

For long periods of time Stavanger's most important industries have been shipping, shipbuilding and the canning industry. The city was officially founded in 1125 when the Stavanger bishopric was established. Stavanger became a center of civic administration and an important market town during the 12th century. Rich herring fisheries in the 19th century gave the city new life.



Stavanger, Norway

Like Houston, Stavanger is an important energy center. Due to the region's short distance to petroleum reservoirs, Stavanger has become Norway's capital for oil, gas and energy. In 2003, Norway was the world's third-largest exporter of petroleum. Today the region has established a valuable mixture of trade and industry.

At least 22 Houston companies have offices in Norway. There are 14 Norwegian companies and organizations with offices in Houston, including the Consulate General of Norway, Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce and Norwegian Trade Council. In 2004, seaborne trade with Norway was valued at more than \$1 billion. Air cargo trade between Houston and Norway was valued at more than \$175 million in 2005.

In June 2006, the Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Association coordinated the *Texas Days in Stavanger Festival*. 85 student ambassadors from the Houston/Galveston area traveled to Norway. While there they competed in friendly athletic games and gave musical and dance performances. The *Stavanger Days in Texas Festival* will be held in two years and will include a delegation of student ambassadors from Stavanger.

For more information about the association and their activities, contact the Houston International Protocol Alliance at 713-227-3395. – **By Millie Canter and Alma Maldonado**

Special Thanks

Article submitted by Millie Canter and Alma Maldonado, Houston International Protocol Alliance.

Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

India

This month we go to a country in South Asia to speak with the Honorable Shashishekhar Madhukar Gavai, Indian Consul General in Houston, to discuss everything from education to energy cooperation.



Consul General
Shashishekhar
Madhukar Gavai

The Honorable Shashishekhar Madhukar Gavai, Consul General of India in Houston, is literally half a world away from his country of birth, as the most direct flight path from India to the United States over the North Pole. Yet, the Consul General finds resonance between his old home and what is fast becoming his new home.

The Consulate General of India was established in 1995 and serves nine states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas). Carrying a particular meaning for the Consul General, Houston's large, diverse and vibrantly active Indo-American community is fully integrated into the social and economic fabric of the city. When asked about important recent cultural developments related to India, the Consul General points to two examples with pride: the 2005 *International Festival's* focus on India, one of the most successful years to date, and the creation of a chair for Indian Studies at the University of Houston. Over the last few years, India has become one of the world's fastest growing economies. "Every time I go back, things are different," says Consul General Gavai, who is an ardent believer in the power of trade, investment and economic engagement to bring about positive and noticeable results for the citizen. In Houston he sees these same results and points to the growth of even more opportunities for developing strong commercial ties with Indian partners.

One of the sectors of greatest compatibility between India and Houston is in the area of oil, gas and energy, both in terms of production and supply services. According to the Consul General, the Indian government is optimistic about the prospect of having companies from Houston explore some of India's oil reserves. In support of this prospect, top representatives from both the Indian Ministry of Oil and Gas and the Department of Petrochemicals and Chemicals have recently come to Houston.



Map of India

Consul General Gavai is excited by the preponderance of trade and information sharing in IT/technology industry between India and Houston. He describes Houston as an ideal counterpart in terms of technology exchanges, whether these are software or biotechnology. The Consul General believes that future exchanges of ideas and human capital will naturally occur from this engagement, bringing much success to both sides of a partnership that extends across the globe! – **By Matthew Shailer**

International Hub: Museum of Fine Arts

A dynamic cultural complex, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Houston, consists of a main campus and two decorative arts centers. With its encyclopedic collection and an exciting schedule of international loan exhibitions and award-winning programs, the MFA is one of the premier destinations in the United States for art lovers.

“Our Museum galleries are filled with artworks representing every era of history. Throughout the year, our permanent collections showcase magnificent examples of art from antiquity to the present. Currently, two shows present ancient art from opposite ends of the globe. *Reading the Roman Portrait Bust* brings to life the ruling class of ancient Rome and *The Spirit of Ancient Colombian Gold* features sublime objects created by the Pre-Columbian cultures of South America,” says Peter C. Marzio, director of the Museum.



Peter C. Marzio

According to an article published in the Washington Post in June, 1987, “The Cullen Sculpture Garden is a civilized respite wherein a precious few of the Western world’s better bronzes can be viewed at leisure.” This garden is adjacent to the Glassell School of Art, the teaching wing of the MFA.

The MFA also encompasses two facilities near the main campus which are dedicated to presenting American and European decorative arts. A house museum showcasing one of the leading collections of American decorative arts in the world, *Bayou Bend* was donated to the MFA in 1957 by Ima Hogg who was responsible for the home’s innovative architecture and breathtaking gardens. Opening to the public in

1999, *Rienzi* is a renowned center for European decorative arts at the MFA. Comprising a remarkable art collection, a house and gardens, Rienzi was given to the Museum by arts patrons Carroll and Harris Masterson.

Active internationally, the MFA will be participating in the *Cairo International Biennale*, the largest visual arts exhibition in the Arab world, in December 2006 through the appointment of Gilbert Vicario, coordinator of the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at the MFA, as commissioner. The *Cairo Biennale* has become an increasingly important venue for the cultural dialogue between the U.S. and the Middle East and has attracted significant global participation.

“The MFA is honored by the selection of Gilbert Vicario as commissioner of this important cultural event. Our establishment of the Latin American art department at the MFA, and the Museum’s involvement in projects such as this, opens a dialogue about the broader picture of contemporary art across cultures,” says Marzio. – **By MaryJane Wakefield**

Did You Know?

On the main campus of the MFA is the Caroline Wiess Law building with designs by the famed Mies van der Rohe, the Audrey Jones Beck building, the Glassell School of Art and the Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen sculpture garden. Designed by architect Rafael Moneo, the Beck building opened to acclaim in 2000 and represents the first major museum commission in the U.S. for Moneo, the 1996 recipient of architecture’s highest honor, the *Pritzker Prize*.

The Global Bridge: Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce

Each month the International Newsletter will feature a section “the Global Bridge” introducing the chambers of commerce in Houston dedicated to promoting Houston’s international image.

The Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce (BRATECC) strives to forge closer ties between the business communities of Brazil and the United States, with an emphasis on Texas. BRATECC has enjoyed continuous growth and increased involvement in the Houston business community since its inception in 2001.

BRATECC’s board of directors and members include high-level executives from American and Brazilian companies in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, finances, insurance and engineering both in Brazil and in Houston.



Renato Bertani

The president of BRATECC is Renato Bertani, president of Petrobras America and an authoritative voice of the petroleum industry, serving as a member of the board of the Brazilian Petroleum Institute and as vice president of the Scientific Program Committee of the World Petroleum Council. In

tandem with his career experience, Bertani also acts as a member of several institutions of public interest such as the advisory boards to the World Energy Cities Association and the Center for International Studies of the University of St. Thomas in order to promote and reinforce the strong international tie that binds Brazil and Texas.

With a dynamic and diverse agenda and with the diplomatic support of the Consulate General of Brazil in Houston, BRATECC hosts many breakfasts,

luncheons and networking meetings, bringing to its members and guests distinguished speakers from the United States and Brazil.

Recent special events include last November’s *Brazil, Energy and Power 5*. This conference was held in Houston and was co-hosted with the American Chamber of Commerce in Rio (AMCHAM-Rio). It featured the Brazilian Minister Silas Rondeau of Mines & Energy as well as many other important guests from the Brazilian government and the private sector. BRATECC also hosted director John Forman of Brazil’s National Petroleum Agency and President Gary Spulak of EMBRAER USA in 2005.

On June 22, 2006, BRATECC hosted a luncheon featuring award-winning journalist Paulo Sotero and Rice University professor Mark Jones, titled “Brazil Matters: Exploring the Impact of Brazil’s Upcoming National Elections on Energy and Trade in the Americas.” As current events in Brazil are of high interest to America and the rest of the world, BRATECC hopes to bring many more of these important discussions to the Houston area.

To learn more about upcoming events hosted by BRATECC or to sign up for its mailing list, visit www.braziltexas.org. – **By the Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce.**

Special Thanks

Article submitted by the Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce.

International Frontier –Arthur Schechter

Every month we focus on a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and services to the growth of Houston as an international city.



*Ambassador
Arthur
Schechter*

Ambassador Arthur Schechter has a long history of committed, diverse and broad-based community service and charitable involvement in Houston. A highly regarded trial attorney who was named as one of the “Texas Super Lawyers” by *Texas Monthly Magazine* in 2003 and 2004, Schechter is a partner at Schechter, McElwee, Shaffer & Harris, specializing in personal injury law.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Schechter served in this post from 1998 until 2001. “Being an American Ambassador is a wonderful opportunity, adventure and experience. In addition to representing the 6 million Americans who go each year to the Bahamas on vacation or business, the Embassy houses a huge counter-narcotics operation and migrate interdiction operation,” says Schechter. In 2004, Schechter served as chair of the Mayor’s task force on international travelers, and continues to serve presently as co-chairman with Ambassador Edward Djerejian, director of the Baker Institute for Public Policy for Rice University. This task force had its genesis in concerns over the way international travelers were received in the Houston airports and the visitors’ treatment as they cleared the U.S. process for incoming foreign passengers. After these

studies, new systems were implemented at our airport which resulted in additional employee training and increased understanding of the cultural divide that might be confronted when an international visitor enters our country. Most important, the Houston Bush International Airport has now been designated as one of two “model airports” together with Dulles in Washington, D.C., to be studied by other U.S. airports. We, thus, have an extraordinary opportunity to help create the prototype for other airports and a plan that can be used nationally at a time when ‘public diplomacy’ is an important tool to be used to help close the cultural gap that exists between Western cultures and others,” says Schechter.

A fifth generation Texan, Schechter feels there have been many changes in Houston since he arrived here straight from law school. “Houston has always been a city of great opportunity, but it is far more interesting now than it was 30 years ago because of the diversity and the richness that comes with the blending of many different cultures in a city. This diversity brings not only color and cultural enrichment, but also opportunity for business,” says Schechter.

– By MaryJane Wakefield

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★★★★★
Bill White
Mayor

Helen T. Chang
MOIAD Director

Dion Or
Editor

Mary Jane Wakefield
Assistant Editor

**Please send
articles/comments to
helen.chang@cityofhouston.net
Fax: (713) 247-2100**

**Next Submission
Deadline:
August 20, 2006**

August – 2006 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact	
Aug. 2	6:00pm	Port of Houston Authority: Business Ventures with HMBC and WBEA	Venue:	111 East Loop North
			Contact:	713-670-2588
Aug. 4	7:15am-9:00am	Houston Technology Center: HTC Technology Champions Meeting	Venue:	410 Pierce Street
			Contact:	713-658-1750
Aug. 6	11:00am-2:30pm	Vietnamese Culture and Science Association: Tenth Annual Vietnamese-American Youth Excellence Recognition Program	Venue:	Kim Son Ballroom
			Contact:	713-348-5190
Aug. 7	6:00pm-7:00pm	Houston Dynamo Reception	Venue:	Reliant Stadium
			Contact:	oluck@houstondynamo.com
Aug. 9	11:30am-1:15pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: August Monthly Luncheon	Venue:	Westin Galleria Hotel
			Contact:	713-782-7222
Aug. 9	--	Houston Dynamo: Spanish & European champion FC Barcelona playing Club America of Mexico game	Venue:	Reliant Stadium
			Contact:	
Aug. 10	11:30am-1:30pm	Biohouston: Biohouston Annual Luncheon with Keynote speaker Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.	Venue:	Four Seasons Hotel
			Contact:	832-476-9295
Aug. 10	6:00pm	60 th Anniversary of the Reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol of Tgailand	Venue:	17 Courtlandt Place
			Contact:	713-229-0636
Aug. 11	--	City of Houston: Delegation of Hainan Provincial People's Government	Venue:	--
			Contact:	713-782-5577
Aug. 12	6:30pm	Asians Against Domestic Abuse: Masquerade 2006	Venue:	The Westin Oaks Hotel
			Contact:	713-962-7896
Aug. 15	8:00am-6:00pm	City of Houston and Harris County: 2 nd Annual Destination Occupation Job Fair	Venue:	George R Brown Convention Center
			Contact:	713-844-3659
Aug. 15	6:00pm-8:00pm	Houston-Tampico Sister City Association: briefing meeting for XIII Border Energy Forum	Venue:	The Baker Institute
			Contact:	713-869-0055
Aug. 16	7:30 am	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Networking Breakfast and Mini-Trade Fair	Venue:	5011 Westheimer
			Contact:	713-644-7070
Aug. 17	7:00pm	Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia: 61 st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia	Venue:	Westin Galleria
			Contact:	713-785-1691

Aug. 18	Noon-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Environmental Luncheon with Kathleen Hartnett White, chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Venue: InterContinental Hotel Contact: 713-844-3600
Aug. 23	12:00pm-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Education and Workforce Advisory Committee Luncheon featuring TEA Commissioner Shirley Neeley	Venue: 1600 Lamar St. Contact: 713-844-3659
Aug. 26	6:00pm	Italian Cultural and Community Center: Rekindle the Flame Gala and Auction	Venue: The Houston Club Contact: 713-524-4222
Aug. 26	8:00pm	Indo-American Chamber of Commerce: 7 th Annual Gala	Venue: Westin Oaks Hotel Contact: 713-624-7131
Aug. 27	2:00pm	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston: "Children of Heaven" special film screening	Venue: Museum of Fine Arts Contact: 713-639-7300
Aug. 31	8:30am-3:00pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: Excel Team Business Initiative Conference	Venue: 3100 Main Street Contact: 281-213-9554
Aug. 31	10:00am	International Liaison and Protocol Committee: Committee meeting	Venue: City Council Chambers Contact: 713-247-2002



We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.